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SIPDIS

FROM OES A/S CLAUDIA A. MCMURRAY TO EMBASSY HARARE

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>SENV ECON ZI</u>

SUBJECT: KUDOS FOR HARARE 863

REF: HARARE 863

Kudos to Embassy Harare for its comprehensive assessment of the current negative environmental impacts on wildlife and forestry in Zimbabwe due to the ongoing political and economic strife in the country (Harare 863). Natural resource conservation is an OES top priority in Africa. The cable clearly and succinctly highlights the close relationship between poor governance and weak democratic institutions with environmental degradation and impunity for the offenders. The dire economic situation of the Zimbabwean people in turn, contributes to increased deforestation, poaching, hunting and trafficking in endangered species. Great job again in highlighting the direct link between good governance and natural resource conservation.